

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 18 February 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

G A Porter (Leader)
C N Worth (Deputy Leader)
G J Taylor (Deputy Leader)

T A Carter
A Casson

P E Coupland
R Gambba-Jones

C J Lawton

Cabinet Support
Members:

H Drury, R Grocock, J D McLean

The Chief Executive, the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151), Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager, Executive Manager Governance, Deputy Head of Financial Services and the Democratic Services Officer.

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel), Councillor A M Newton (Independent Group Leader).

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from the Executive Director Strategy and Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director Place together with South Holland Citizens Advice Bureau and Welland Seniors Forum.

78. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 January 2020 were signed by the Leader as a correct record.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

80. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (STANDING ORDERS).

No questions were raised under the Council's Constitution (Standing Orders).

81. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL-IN.

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There were no matters subject to call in.

82. **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE OR THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES.**

There were no matters arising from the Policy Development and Performance Monitoring Panels.

83. **FEES AND CHARGES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) officer to review Fees and Charges as part of the Council's financial and business planning process.

The following amendments were made to the report:

- Item 3.0 **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**, 3.4 "In addition to this charges for Garden Waste **Sack** collection will remain unchanged".
- The table detailing charges for Bulky Waste Collection should have £25 Existing Charge for **3** items (not 1 item).

In response to members' concerns regarding the increase in the South Holland Centre cinema ticket price, officers confirmed that local prices were used as a benchmark and ticket prices were still the most affordable in the area.

Clarification was sought with regard to planning fees breaking even and members were advised that fees were set nationally.

DECISION:

That Cabinet approve Option 2 as detailed in the report to Increase Fees and Charges from 1st April 2020 and increase fees annually by at least RPI.

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing.*

Reason(s) for decision:

That it maximises any additional income due to the Council with the effect that it has the most significant impact against the Council's current MTFP)

84. **FINAL BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY.**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director - Commercialisation (S151) officer which asked the Cabinet to consider the Final General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 revenue

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and capital estimates and the Final Financial Medium Term Plan, for recommendation to Council.

The Portfolio Holder advised that there were no significant changes to the budget and highlighted the following areas:

- Item 3.7.4 of Appendix A **Supplies & Services** stated that the Designated Councillor Budget was to reduce. This would not be the case. The existing budget of £12k would continue to run over the 4 year term.
- Challenges presented over the financial year from temporary accommodation for homeless people and the downturn in planning income totalled £670k pressure in the budget.
- 2021 would see the last of the Revenue Support Grant and Rural Services Grant (£435k). 4 years ago the Council received grants totalling £1.5m. £1m had been lost to date with the remainder set to be lost over the next year.
- The Council took the middle ground on funding assumptions with business rates.
- There had been a delay to the Government Fair Funding review so it had been assumed that there were no financial changes.
- The Council would receive an allocation of New Homes Bonus again this year which would go towards more commercial opportunities and to invest in towns, villages and parishes.
- Central Government announced in January additional business rates relief which would benefit 190 district businesses commencing April 2020.
- Garden waste collection fees were to increase by £3 per year.
- Council tax would increase by 10p per week for a band D home.
- The increased Drainage Board levies equated to 50% of the District's Council tax.
- The Pride initiative had been built into the base budget to enhance towns, villages and parishes.
- Household waste collections continued to be every week.
- The Council will continue to build on the new homes success of 2019/20 with £2.55m to be invested in new affordable homes.

Members asked how much was paid to PSPS and were advised by officers that £3.2m was paid for all services.

Members expressed appreciation that the £12k Designated Councillor Budget (DCB) will continue to run over the 4 year term and the Leader commented that the DCB scheme has been very successful with money being spent appropriately on community projects.

It was stated that the element of Council Tax paid to drainage boards was significant and that it would be preferable for this to be funded separately. However, despite the challenges, the Council continued to be one of the best value for money councils employing the best people.

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Members thanked the Portfolio Holder and officers within the Finance Team for their hard work in preparation for the budget report and for opportunities to attend meetings in order to fully understand financial decisions and processes.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1) Cabinet approved and recommended to full Council:

- a. That the Revenue Estimates for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Spalding Special Expenses for 2020/21 (Appendices A, B, C and I) be approved.
- b. That the use of reserves (Appendix D) be approved.
- c. That the Council Tax for a Band A property in 2020/21 be set at £119.82 (a £3.30 per annum increase on 2019/20 levels) and band D £179.73 for 2020/21 (a £4.95 per annum increase on 2019/20 levels).
- d. That the Spalding special expense for a Band A property be set at £15.88 for 2020/21, (previously £15.78 in 2019/20) and Band D £23.82 for 2020/21, (previously £23.67 in 2019/20).
- e. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (Appendix B) be approved.
- f. That Housing Revenue Account weekly dwelling rents increase by 2.7% over the previous year, 2019/20, with effect from Monday 6th April 2020. This is in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
- g. That the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme (Appendices E and F) be approved.
- h. That the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Minimum Revenue Provision policy and Investment Strategy be approved. (Appendix G and H).

DECISIONS:

- 2) That an additional project management resource be provided, funded from the investment & growth reserves, for a period of 2 years, to support the delivery and achievement service efficiencies in Environmental Services.
- 3) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director - Commercialisation (S151), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to make any necessary amendments to the budget prior to council due to late notifications.

(Other options considered:

- *There were no alternative options presented, however amendments could be made by Cabinet for recommendation to Council.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To comply with the budgetary and policy framework.)*

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85. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE LEADER DECIDES ARE URGENT.

There were no urgent items.

(The meeting ended at 10.22 am)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on 24 February 2020. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed above will, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on 3 March 2020 (i.e. after the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication of these minutes), unless during that period a notice which is signed by either a Ward Representative (in relation to a matter in their ward) or two members of the Performance Monitoring Panel or any three members, and complies with the requirements of the Council's Constitution is served on the Executive Manager Governance requesting that the decision be called-in and the Executive Manager Governance approves the request for call-in. Where a decision is called-in it will firstly be considered by the Performance Monitoring Panel on a date to be fixed.

Any FINAL DECISIONS and any URGENT DECISIONS take effect immediately.

Any RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL detailed above will be submitted for consideration to the meeting of the full Council on 26 February 2020.